



ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-4000

OCT 7 1998



FORCE MANAGEMENT
POLICY

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY (M&RA)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY (M&RA)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE (M&RA, I&E)


SUBJECT: General and Recreational Libraries

General and Recreational libraries are among the most highly valued quality of life programs in our military communities. They support voluntary education, career transition, professional education, and family activities. It is essential that we maintain service member and family access to library services as an important quality of life benefit.

The House National Security Committee recently expressed concern about the closure of libraries on military installations. As a result, please observe a moratorium on the closure of libraries pending a comprehensive study of the DoD program and the submission of a report to Congress. Information regarding the Congressional reporting requirement will be forwarded in subsequent correspondence. BRAC sites are not included in this moratorium.

Productive efforts to improve our libraries are already underway and I am encouraged by these initiatives. Your staffs are collectively engaged in consideration of a basic facility survey instrument, a strategic plan to define the future of libraries, and the need for minimum DoD library standards. This review is being expanded to include access to education and research materials through computer and Internet technology for customers and library staff. This will include your ongoing or planned near term efforts to provide adequate Internet access and computer technologies to libraries.

Education and life-long learning are priorities of our service members. Initiatives that help them succeed in their educational goals are essential, if we are to remain the world's leading military force. I appreciate your assistance with this important initiative.


Francis M. Rush, Jr.
Acting Assistant Secretary

